

(5) The decedent's general physical and mental condition before death.

(6) Itemized bills for medical and burial expenses incurred, or itemized receipts of payments for such expenses.

(7) If damages for pain and suffering prior to death are claimed, a physician's detailed statement specifying the injuries suffered, duration of pain and suffering, any drugs administered for pain and the decedent's physical condition in the interval between injury and death.

(8) Any other evidence or information that may have a bearing on either the responsibility of the United States for the death or the damages claimed.

(d) *Time limit for submitting evidence.* You must furnish all the evidence required by this section within a reasonable time. If you fail to furnish all the evidence necessary to determine your claim within 60 days after being asked to do so, we may find that you have decided to abandon your claim.

§ 429.105 What happens when you receive my claim?

When we receive your claim, we will investigate to determine its validity. After our investigation, we will forward your claim to the SSA Claims Officer with our recommendation as to whether your claim should be fully or partially allowed or denied.

§ 429.106 What happens if my claim is denied?

(a) If your claim is denied, the SSA Claims Officer will send you, your agent, or your legal representative a written notice by certified or registered mail. The notice will include an explanation of why your claim was denied and will advise you of your right to file suit in an appropriate U.S. District Court not later than 6 months after the date of the mailing of the notice if you disagree with the determination.

(b) Before filing suit and before expiration of the 6-month period after the date of the mailing of the denial notice, you, your duly authorized agent, or your legal representative may file a written request with SSA for reconsideration by certified or registered mail. If you file a timely request for reconsideration, SSA has 6 months from the

date you file your request in which to finally dispose of your claim. Your right to file suit will not begin until 6 months after you file your request for reconsideration. Final SSA action on your request for reconsideration will occur in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (a) of this section.

§ 429.107 If my claim is approved, how do I obtain payment?

(a) *Claims under \$2,500.* If your claim is approved, you must complete a "Voucher for Payment under the Federal Tort Claims Act," Standard Form 1145. If you are represented by an attorney, the voucher for payment (SF 1145) must designate both you and your attorney as "payees"; we will then mail the check to your attorney.

(b) *Claims in excess of \$2,500.* If your claim is approved, SSA will forward the appropriate Financial Management Service (FMS) Forms 194, 195, 196, 197, and/or 197-A to the Judgment Fund Section, Financial Management Service, Department of the Treasury, Room 6D37, 3700 East-West Highway, Hyattsville, Maryland 20782. FMS will then mail the payment to you.

§ 429.108 What happens if I accept an award, compromise, or settlement under this subpart?

If you, your agent, or your legal representative accept any award, compromise, or settlement under this subpart, your acceptance is final and conclusive on you, your agent or representative, and any other person on whose behalf or for whose benefit the claim was filed. The acceptance constitutes a complete release of any claim against the United States and against any employee of the Government whose act or omission gave rise to the claim, by reason of the same subject matter.

§ 429.109 Are there any penalties for filing false claims?

A person who files a false claim or makes a false or fraudulent statement in a claim against the United States may be imprisoned for not more than 5 years. (18 U.S.C. 287, 1001). In addition, that person may be liable for a civil penalty of not less than \$5,000 and not more than \$10,000 and damages of triple

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the loss or damage sustained by the United States, as well as the costs of a civil action brought to recover any penalty or damages. (31 U.S.C. 3729).

§ 429.110 Are there any limitations on SSA's authority under this subpart?

(a) An award, compromise or settlement of a claim under this subpart in excess of \$25,000 needs the prior written approval of the Attorney General or his designee. For the purposes of this paragraph, we treat a principal claim and any derivative or subrogated claim as a single claim.

(b) An administrative claim may be adjusted, determined, compromised, or settled under this subpart only after consultation with the Department of Justice when, in the opinion of SSA:

(1) A new precedent or a new point of law is involved;

(2) A question of policy is or may be involved;

(3) The United States is or may be entitled to indemnity or contribution from a third party and SSA is unable to adjust the third-party claim; or

(4) The compromise of a particular claim, as a practical matter, will or may control the disposition of a related claim in which the amount to be paid may exceed \$25,000.

(c) An administrative claim may be adjusted, determined, compromised or settled only after consultation with the Department of Justice when it is learned that the United States, or an employee, agent, or cost-plus contractor of the United States, is involved in litigation based on a claim arising out of the same incident or transaction.

Subpart B—Claims Under the Military Personnel and Civilian Employees' Claims Act of 1964

§ 429.201 What is this subpart about?

(a) *Scope and purpose.* This subpart applies to all claims filed by or on behalf of employees of SSA for loss of, or damage to, personal property incident to their service with SSA under the Military Personnel and Civilian Employees Claims Act of 1964, as amended, 31 U.S.C. 3721 (MPCECA). A claim must be substantiated and the possession of

the property determined to be reasonable, useful, or proper.

(b) *Maximum payment under this part.* The maximum amount that can be paid for any claim under the Act is \$40,000 or, in extraordinary circumstances, \$100,000, and property may be replaced in kind at the discretion of the Government.

(c) *Policy.* SSA is not an insurer and does not underwrite all personal property losses that an employee may sustain incident to employment. We encourage employees to carry private insurance to the maximum extent practicable to avoid losses that may not be recoverable from SSA. The procedures set forth in this subpart are designed to enable you to obtain the proper amount of compensation from SSA and/or a private insurer for the loss or damage. If you fail to comply with these procedures it could reduce or preclude payment of your claim under this subpart.

(d) *Definitions.* (1) "Quarters," unless otherwise indicated, means a house, apartment, or other residence that is an SSA employee's principal residence.

(2) "State," unless otherwise indicated, is defined by § 404.2(c)(5) of title 20 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(3) "SSA Claims Officer" means the SSA official designated to determine claims under the MPCECA. The current designee is the Associate General Counsel for General Law.

§ 429.202 How do I file a claim under this subpart?

(a) *Who may file.* (1) You, your duly authorized agent, your legal representative, or your survivor may file the claim. If your survivor files the claim, the order of precedence for filing is spouse, child, parent, sibling.

(2) You may not file a claim on behalf of a subrogee, assignee, conditional vendor, or other third party.

(b) *Where to file.* You must file your claim with the Social Security Administration, Office of the General Counsel, Office of General Law, P.O. Box 17788, Baltimore, Maryland 21235-7788.

(c) *Evidence required.* You are responsible for proving ownership or possession, the facts surrounding the loss or damage, and the value of the property. Your claim must include the following: